THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) and (b) It is proposed to declare West Coast Canal stretches and Udyogmandal and Champakara Canals in Kerala as National Waterway. Feasibility studies on Quilon-Kottapuram stretch of West Coast Canal and Champakara and Udyogmandal Canals have been completed. The feasibility studies comprising hydrographic survey and techno-economic studies on the Kottapuram Badagara and Quilon-Trivandrum stretches of the West Coast Canal have been undertaken by the Inland Waterways Authority of India recently.

Censor of video news

174. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that video news magazines are being censored; and

(b) if so, what effect it is likely to have on the general policy of Government regarding free press?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. All firms intended for public exhibition in India are required to be certified by the Central Board of Film Certification. "Film" includes a vide film. Therefore, video films, including newsreels meant for public exhibition, have to be presented to the Board for certification. The medium of cinema, both celluloid and video, is different from the print medium in their impact and reach. There is, therefore, pre-censorship for film medium. In view of this, it has no relation with the general policy of Government regarding free press.

Participation of Indian political leaders in a political conference in Kathmandu

175. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the reaction of the Nepalese Government about the participation of Indian political leaders in a political conference in Kathmandu; and

(b) whether Government of India approve this kind of activity by political leaders in foreign countries?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): (a) Government are not aware of any official reaction or demarche by the Government of Nepal on this subject.

(b) The Participation by Indian political leaders in the political conference in Kathmandu was outside the purview of Government of India. So the question of Government approving or otherwise does not arise.

International container exchange service at Cochin Port

176. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of India have accepted in principle to have loading and unloading exchange service of the international containers at Cochin Port; and

(b) if so, what is the reason for the delay in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) and (b) A study has been commissioned to ascertain the techno-economic feasibi-